

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 1**

**Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment, Committee Reports from State Board Members, update from Executive Director, Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts, Secretary's Report**

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; Nina Lou Bunting; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan; Barbara B. Rutt and Terry W. Whittaker. Mr. Coverdale arrived after roll was called. Secretary of Education Steven Godowsky was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

The agenda was approved as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez and seconded by Dr. Whittaker to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present – Mr. Coverdale).

Minutes from the regular meeting of December 17, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried by voice vote (Abstain: Dr. Whittaker; Not Present: Mr. Coverdale).

Public Comment

Bill Doolittle, a volunteer advocate for Delaware's at risk children, provided public comment on Regulation 616 which is a regulation that does not require action by the State Board but only approval by the Secretary of Education. The regulation addresses due process procedures for alternative placement meetings and expulsion hearings. Mr. Doolittle stated that the regulation does not take into account parental rights and many concerns have been expressed about the regulation. He asked that the regulation not be approved until these concerns have been addressed.

Committee Reports and Executive Director's Update

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Mrs. Bunting attended the Teacher of the Year Advisory Committee meeting and the Board of Directors meeting for the Delaware School Boards Association. She also attended the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) information meeting at the State Senate and the Board's work session on WEIC. Dr. Whittaker also attended the work session as did Mrs. Rutt. Mrs. Rutt also attended the meeting of the Task Force on Education Funding Improvement Commission and the ESSA session. Mr. Heffernan was also in attendance for the Board's work session.

Ms. Johnson highlighted some of the items and news briefs shared under the Executive Director's report. She noted the resources available for ESSA. Dr. Gray thanked Senator Sokola for hosting the ESSA informative session and thanked Ms. Johnson for bringing all stakeholders together. President Gray announced two events, the Delaware STEM Award Symposium on January 25<sup>th</sup> and the Department's Career and College Readiness Conference for Counselors on January 26<sup>th</sup>

### Update on Literacy Campaign Efforts

Ms. Johnson announced the Governor's Birth to 8 Summit scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> explaining information was available on the Board's eBoard site as well as how to register. Steve Pemberton is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

### Secretary's Report

Secretary Godowsky commented that using the SAT for 11<sup>th</sup> graders in lieu of the Smarter Balanced assessment was in the best interest of the students and reduces the amount of testing. The Department is working with schools and charters on the transition. He announced that the Department was revising the Art Standards and the World Language Standards and they would be presented to the State Board for action. Secretary Godowsky also provided an update on the recent bomb threats that have been occurring in Delaware schools and he and Department staff have been meeting with Homeland Security and will provide guidance to the schools and districts. The investigation includes several states and multiple state and federal agencies.

### **State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 2**

#### **Action on WEIC Final Proposal, Alternate Evaluation System Presentation**

#### Action on WEIC Final Proposal

Dr. Gray noted that the State Board received the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission's final report on December 16, 2015. The report was entitled "Redistricting in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County: A Transition, Resource and Implementation Plan." She highlighted the record which included minutes from WEIC meetings and subcommittees, correspondence and public comment from November 17 through January 14<sup>th</sup>. The record also included the transcripts from the public hearings.

A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez. There was a lengthy discussion on the motion as Board members noted that even with all the information they have received, there are still some concerns including equitable funding and funding for special education students, high poverty students and ELL students. There was also discussion on doing better for all students and not just focusing on the City of Wilmington. Board members also asked if the four districts in the City of Wilmington have reaffirmed their position since the final proposal was just released. Also raised was the Board's concern for how the funding would implement the plan as well as how moving district lines would improve student outcomes. The Board expressed concerns about what happens in short term versus long term. There was concern on what happens to the students in the meantime as the districts' lines are redrawn and during the transition to full implementation. Mrs. Rutt asked if the motion could be amended to return the plan to WEIC expressing the Board's concerns and ask that the plan be resubmitted. The Board discussed the timeline for review. Dr. Whittaker amended the motion to ask that WEIC be notified of the Board's concerns that have been expressed and ask WEIC to revise the plan and resubmit to the State Board for action within 60 days of receipt of the Board's correspondence. The Board also noted that it would take action within the March 31<sup>st</sup> timeline. Mr. Melendez agreed to the amended motion and seconded it. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Coverdale).

Tony Allen, Chair of WEIC, noted that he had prepared a presentation and comments for the State Board. Dr. Gray apologized for any misunderstanding stating the Board's agenda did not indicate a presentation, only action by the Board. She noted that Mr. Allen's comment would be reflected in the minutes.

#### Alternate Evaluation System Presentation

Laura Schneider from the Department's TLEU branch explained the process for districts and charter schools to request a waiver from the Department of the Delaware Performance Appraisal System II. Alternate evaluation systems must be a product of the collective bargaining process and must incorporate multiple measures of student growth with assessing educator performance. Alternate systems must also contain a mechanism to certify evaluators and insure quality control. The Board received a presentation from Evelyn Edney, Head of School for the Early College High School, on the system used by ECHS. The school is part of a Delaware Charter Collaborative and uses the Teaching Excellence Framework. Margie Lopez Waite and Beth Ann Gluck presented for Las Americas ASPIRA Academy. ASPRA is implementing an alternative system for the first time this year. Dr. Dusty Blakey shared the evaluation system used in the Colonial School District. The District's goal for changing was to make the evaluation and feedback process more effective and efficient for teachers, specialists and administrators. The Board requested that they receive an update next year on the progress of these alternate evaluation systems.

The Board recessed from 11:03 a.m. to 11:17 a.m. It was noted that Mr. Coverdale had arrived during the presentations and Mr. Melendez was excused at this time.

### **State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 3 Delaware Educator Evaluation System Presentation, Assessment Update Presentation**

#### Delaware Educator Evaluation System Presentation

Christopher Ruszkowski, Laura Schneider and Atnre Alleyne from the Department's TLEU branch provided an update on educator evaluation in Delaware. Research, both within Delaware and nationally show that educator effectiveness matters for student achievement. It was explained that prior to 2011 more than half of Delaware's educators did not have state approved diagnostics or summative assessments that were comparable across the state but since that time, over 700 educators have met and developed multiple measures of student growth for every grade and subject area. The Department has conducted significant research with the Harvard Strategic Data Project to prove the validity and reliability of student growth measures created by educators. It was also noted that the state has increased its supports for the effective implementation of educator evaluations.

#### Assessment Update

Chief Academic Officer Michael Watson and Carolyn Lazar from the Assessment Office provided the assessment update. It was explained that a digital library and resources for the interim assessment are currently available. Online scores this year will be available earlier and score reports for parents and schools will arrive in July in the mail. It was noted that the Department has been providing outreach and communications to district schools and charter schools on assessment

issues. Site visits are currently taking place and weekly conference calls will be held during the testing window. The Board was provided with some of the improvements that will be made to the parent score reports and accessibility improvements to the assessment. Information was also provided on the SAT School Day and the SAT replacing the Smarter Balance assessment in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The Senate Joint Resolution 2 Committee is currently meeting on assessment inventories and will finalize its recommendations by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Board recessed from 12:34 p.m. to 12:44 p.m.

**State Board Meeting Audio – Part 4**  
**Department Regulations, Charter Schools, Professional Standards Board, Information Items and Adjournment**

Department Regulations

Tina Shockley presented the Department's regulations before the Board.

Regulation 1008 DIAA Junior High and Middle School Interscholastic Athletics was before the Board for action. This regulation clarifies definitions and also addresses athletic participation by transgender students. Comments were received. Kevin Charles, Executive Director of the DIAA, was available and responded to questions from the Board. A motion was made by Dr. Whitaker to approve the amendments to the regulation. The motion carried by roll call vote (Yes: Mrs. Bunting, Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rutt, Dr. Whittaker, Dr. Gray. No: Mr. Coverdale. Not Present: Mr. Melendez). The appropriate Order was signed.

Regulation 1009 DIAA High School Interscholastic Athletics was before the Board for action. This regulation is similar and parallels Regulation 1008. Comments were received. Kevin Charles, Executive Director of the DIAA, was available to respond to questions from the Board. A motion was made by Dr. Heffernan to approve the amendments to the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried by roll call vote (Yes: Mrs. Bunting, Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rutt, Dr. Whittaker, Dr. Gray. No: Mr. Coverdale. Not Present: Mr. Melendez). The appropriate Order was signed.

Secretary Godowsky asked to be excused and Deputy Secretary David Blowman served as the Executive Secretary for the State Board for the remainder of the meeting.

Regulation 503, Instructional Program Requirements Regulation was before the Board for action. Comments were received. A motion was made by Dr. Whitaker to approve the amendments to the regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez). The appropriate Order was signed.

Regulation 932 Military Connected Youth was before the Board for action. Comments were received. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to approve this new regulation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez). The appropriate Order was signed.

Ms. Shockley stated that Regulation 616 was before the Board as an information item as it requires only the Secretary's approval. She did note that the regulation was being revisited.

#### Charter Schools

Director of the DOE Charter School Office, Jennifer Nagourney, presented the Charter School items.

The Board was briefed on the closing of Delaware Met. The Board asked to receive an update on the placement of all the students that attended Delaware Met. Ms. Nagourney also provided a progress report on the probation conditions for Academy of Dover, Delaware Design Lab and Prestige Academy. She also announced that no new charter applications were submitted this year but the Charter Office has received seven modification requests.

#### Professional Standards Board

Chris Kenton, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board presented the PSB items to the State Board.

Regulation 1502 Professional Growth Salary Increments and Regulation 1590 Delaware Administrator Standards were on the agenda for discussion. They will be placed on the Board's agenda next month pending final action by the Professional Standards Board.

#### Adjournment

Dr. Gray noted the personnel items for the Board's information. There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present: Mr. Melendez).

The meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Steven H. Godowsky, Executive Secretary and  
Secretary of Education